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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fourth session of the Commission/ fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
6-10 April 1989

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

THIRD MEETING OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

Conclusions and recommendations

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* E/ECA/TPCW.10/1.

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II. [illegible]

1. The basic objective of the Regional Conference on the Development Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa is to promote co-operation by countries through their development activities so that:

(a) African production of mineral raw materials can expand and develop

(b) African mineral raw materials can contribute towards the develop and growth of the continent's industrial, agricultural and other econo sectors;

(c) Export earnings of African countries resulting from raw materi and mineral-based products may increase;

(d) Intra-African trade in mineral raw materials and mineral-ba products can expand;

(e) Consumption of minerals in the continent may improve; and

(f) Minerals can provide the maximum possible impact towards the soc economic advancement of the African people.

2. The third meeting of the Regional Conference on the Development Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa was held in Kampala, Uganda, fr 9 to 15 June 1977. The meeting was attended by the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzani Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following multinational institutions concerned with mineral resourc development in Africa were represented by observers: United Nations Departme of Technical Co-operation for Development (UNTCD), United Nations Centre f Transnational Corporations (UNCTC), United Nations Office for Ocean Affai and the Law of the Sea (UNOALOS), International Labour Organisation (ILO United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nati Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific a Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Developme Organization (UNIDO), Central African Mineral Resources Development Cent (CAMRDC), Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Cent (ESAMRDC), Organization of African Unity (OAU), Regional Centre for Servic in Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (RCSSMRS), Bureau de recherc géologique et minière of France (BRGM), Commission for the Geological M of the World (CGMW) and Afro Asbel of Sweden.

4. An observer also represented Radiator and Tinning (Pvt.) Ltd. of Zimbabwe a private company.

3. The meeting considered the following substantive issues: (i) progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the two previous Conferences; (ii) national mineral development policies in order to determine how these policies could be improved to enhance co-operation by member States in mineral resources development; (iii) possibilities of establishing African commodity associations concerned with specific minerals or groups of minerals; (iv) the African gemstones industry at all stages of its operation with a view to determining how best the industry could respond to the region's development needs; (v) the findings of the regional survey of copper and aluminium fabricating facilities and prospects for intra-African manufacture and trade in copper- and aluminium-based products; and (vi) developments of the African minerals sector during the period 1985-1987 and determine projected possible prospects for the period 1990 and beyond.

4. The meeting adopted the 'Kampala Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa' which appears in the annex.

Annex

THE KAMPALA PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES IN AFRICA

Preamble

The Conference of Ministers responsible for mineral resources development and utilization in Africa, meeting in Kampala, Republic of Uganda, from 13 to 15 June 1987, mindful that the objectives of the Regional Conferences on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa are to promote co-operation by the countries of the region in their mineral development activities, having reviewed and considered:

(a) The progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the two previous Regional Conferences (1981 and 1985) on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa, including review of reports on activities in each member State, subregional centres and international organizations with regard to developments in the mining sector;

(b) The report on national mineral development policies in Africa and their effect on intra-African co-operation in mineral resources development and utilization, including country reports reviewing national mineral development policies indicating what aspects of those policies have enhanced or hindered intra-African co-operation in the development and utilization of minerals in the region, and proposing how such policies could be improved to strengthen the desired co-operation by countries in the mineral sector;

(c) The report on the possibility of establishing African associations concerned with specific minerals or group of minerals;

(d) The reports on the regional survey of copper and aluminium fabricating facilities and prospects for intra-African manufacture and trade in copper- and aluminium-based products;

(e) Report on the possibility of establishing a special mechanism within the African Development Bank for financing mineral development projects in Africa;

(f) Report on the development of the African mineral sector during the period 1985 to 1987 and projected possible prospects to beyond 1990; and

(g) The inaugural address by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda;

made the following conclusions and recommendations for implementation by member States, subregional and regional institutions and international organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. The Conference of Ministers noted that an effective monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the recommendations of Regional Conferences on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa is necessary. The Ministers note that the Lusaka Programme of Action had assigned the task of monitoring the implementation of recommendations on the development and utilization of mineral resources in Africa to regional and subregional institutions concerned. The existing regional and subregional institutions are: the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Central African Mineral Resources Development Centre (CAMRDC), the Eastern and Southern African Mineral Resources Development Centre (ESAMRDC), the Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) for Eastern and Southern African States and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). Hence the Conference of Ministers requests the Executive Secretary of ECA and the Organization of African Unity to urge the executive heads of the regional and subregional institutions to act as called for by the Lusaka Programme of Action, and report to the ministerial meeting of the fourth Regional Conference.

2. The Conference of Ministers noted that the maximum impact that could result from mineral development in Africa would be realized where regional upstream and d[illegible] industries based on mineral production exist. The Ministers thus recommend that member States, on their own or through the existing subregional economic groupings and intra-subregional arrangements, take all the necessary measures to acquire the necessary capabilities (technology and capital) to develop their resources in the best interest of the African continent.

3. In spite of the fact that the Lagos Plan of Action called upon African member States to establish regional and subregional institutions for the promotion of co-operation by African countries for self-reliant and self-sustaining social and economic development in general and mineral development in particular, the Conference of Ministers noted with regret that (a) not all member States have joined the existing subregional centres for mineral resources development resulting in a weak take-off of these institutions, and (b) that there are some subregions without mineral resources development centres as called for by the Lagos Plan of Action, and therefore recommends that:

(i) the member States who have not joined their existing respective centres should consider doing so without further delay. In this regard, the Executive Secretary of ECA is requested to take up the matter with the Heads of State and Government of OAU; and

(ii) measures be taken for detailed studies on the feasibility of establishing similar centres in the West and North African subregions.

4. In consideration of the possibility of establishing African associations concerned with specific minerals or groups of minerals, the Conference of

Ministers noted that the formation of such associations at this stage is premature. For the time being, the Conference of Ministers urges intensified interaction among member States, African producers of mineral raw materials and mineral-based products, under the auspices of relevant regional and subregional institutions, in order to improve the contribution of the mineral industry towards the economic and social advancement of the African region.

5. Aware of the need to restructure and harmonize existing national mineral development policies, member States are urged to assess their current policies and practices, share information and experiences among themselves and with relevant institutions within and outside the region, among other needed measures, with a view to evolving national mineral development policies that will promote and sustain co-operation among member States in the development and utilization of mineral resources. These measures will promote subregional and regional joint ventures in mineral development projects, increase intra-African trade in mineral commodities and products of the mining industry and enhance the consumption of such products in the economies of the region.

6. The Ministers note that small-scale mining of precious and semi-precious minerals is a growing activity in many African countries and faces many constraints including illicit trade which deprives governments of substantial foreign exchange earnings. The Ministers recommended that ECA, in collaboration with the subregional institutions, should organize seminars aimed at examining:

(a) The full potential in Africa for the development of small-scale mining for precious and semi-precious minerals;

(b) Current status of small-scale mining for precious and semi-precious minerals in Africa, whether illicit or legal; and

(c) The legislative and fiscal regimes governing small-scale mining for precious and semi-precious minerals in various African countries;

and as a result of the above, recommended a strategy for a positive growth of small-scale mining for precious and semi-precious minerals. The recommendations should deal with legislative, fiscal and technological aspects.

7. On the regional survey of copper and aluminium, the Ministers took note of the preliminary reports and recommended that regular consultations among governments, producers of bauxite, alumina and copper fabricators and consumers be held under the auspices of existing subregional and regional institutions to determine prospects for increased intra-African manufacture and trade in copper- and aluminium-based products. The Ministers further requested ECA, in collaboration with other relevant United Nations agencies, existing subregional and regional institutions and member States, to prepare a detailed study on the subject, with the participation of fabricators and consumers, for consideration at the fourth Regional Conference on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa.

8. Given the importance of minerals in the development of African economies and the peculiar nature of mineral resources development, the Ministers recommended that in the same way as it has done for agriculture, industry and other

sectors, ADB should set up a mechanism for financing new mineral resources development projects and the rehabilitation of existing production facilities. The Ministers further requested ECA to approach the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) with a view to establishing how the Bank could support mineral development projects in the region.

9. The Ministers noted that there is an urgent need to develop and modernize Africa's agriculture. The mineral industry and the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers as well as agro-minerals are essential inputs into that sector. Some African countries are endowed with phosphate and potash deposits that have been identified and evaluated. The Ministers requested ECA, in co-operation with regional and subregional organizations, to promote the development of those deposits as well as research on sulphur in Africa so as to boost agricultural production.

10. The Ministers noted that sea-bed mining would be a possible future alternative source of nickel, copper, manganese, cobalt and other minerals produced in land-based mining operations. Given the likelihood that the recovery of minerals in international sea-bed areas could adversely affect the economies of developing land-based products of similar mineral resources, and the principle that the exploitation of mineral resources in international sea-bed areas ought to financially benefit mankind as a whole, it is stressed that participation of developing countries in the ongoing negotiations of the Preparatory Commission of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ensures:

(a) The preservation of the fundamental concept of the equitable sharing of financial benefits accruing from the commercial exploitation of the common heritage resources;

(b) The establishment of the modalities for the payment of financial compensation or the implementation of other means of compensation, including economic adjustment systems so as to mitigate the adverse impact of mining the resources of the common heritage of mankind on the economies of developing land-based producer States; and

(c) In this connection, the Ministers took note of the work of the United Nations Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNOALOS) in the field of sea-bed minerals, and in servicing the Preparatory Commission, and recommended continuing co-operation between ECA and UNOALOS in assisting member States to achieve the above objectives.

11. The Ministers requested the United Nations specialized agencies and other international organizations to assist the member States, regional and subregional institutions in the implementation of the Kampala Programme of Action on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa.

12. In order to ensure an effective follow-up of the recommendations of the Regional Conferences and in order that the instruments for the implementation of national development policy are associated with and become part of the recommendations, the future Regional Conferences on the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa should invite, in addition to government representatives, participants from industry, universities and labour groups.

13. To ensure that the implementation of the recommendations of the regional Conferences are undertaken in an 'integrated' manner so that mineral development policies are integrated into overall national development and planning, and in order to ensure that subregional and regional perspectives are incorporated, the recommendations of the Regional Conferences should be effectively disseminated at the national level to all national institutions, ministries and industries and at the subregional and regional levels to all subregional and regional institutions and economic groupings.

14. African and foreign investors should encourage the formation of African mining and mineral-based industries and multinational corporations in which they should invest in order to reduce the overdominance of foreign companies in the sector and allow African countries to exercise their sovereignty over their mineral resources.

15. The development of the mineral sector in Africa will always require co-operation among the African countries at subregional and regional levels. Such co-operation would enhance intra-African trade in mineral raw materials, semi-finished and finished products and will necessitate the establishment of transport links among the States.